

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the Amendment After Final Action be admitted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

Applicants submit that this Amendment presents claims in better form for consideration on appeal. Applicants submit that thus there is a good and sufficient reason why this amendment is necessary, why this amendment was not earlier presented, and why this amendment should be admitted now. Furthermore, applicants believe that consideration of this amendment could lead to favorable action that would remove one or more issues for appeal.

Accompanying this Amendment After Final Action is a Petition for a one month extension of time to respond to the Final Office Action mailed September 5, 2000.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the careful examination given to this application.

Claims 31-37, 12-19, and 26-29 are pending.

Claims 12-19 and 26-29 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 31-37 have been considered for examination purposes.

The drawings stand objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) because they fail to show the first and second state machines and their interconnection with the remainder of the elements as claimed in the newly amended claims.

Claims 31-37 stand rejected claims 31-37 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Claims 31-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 31 has been amended. Support for the amendment to claim 31 is found in the Disclosure on page 11, lines 9-22 and in FIG. 3. Accordingly, applicants submit that no new matter has been introduced by the amendments made herein.

Drawing Objections

The Examiner has objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) because they fail to show the first and second state machines and their interconnection with the remainder of the elements as claimed in the newly amended claims.

Accordingly, applicants have amended claim 31 such that the claimed first and second state machines are clearly supported in the Disclosure on page 11, lines 9-22 and in FIG. 3. Thus, applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the objection to the drawings.

35 U.S.C. § 112, First and Second Paragraph, Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 31-37 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. In particular, the Examiner has stated that:

There is no showing or description in the specification of the first state machine configured to update at least one of the bits indicating a suspend status of a write operation in response to a suspend signal or a second state machine coupled to said first state machine and configured to control the output of the status signal in response to a status request signal.

(p. 2 Office Action 9/5/00).

Accordingly, applicants have amended claim 31 such that the claimed first and second state machines are clearly supported in the Disclosure on page 11, lines 9-22 and in FIG. 3. Thus, applicants respectfully submit that claims 31-37 and the Disclosure are in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

The Examiner has rejected claims 31-37 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. In particular, the Examiner has stated that:

Applicant is reminded of 37 C.F.R. 1.75(d)(1) which states that the claim or claims must conform to the invention as set forth in the remainder of the specification and the terms and phrases used in the claims must find clear support or antecedent basis in the description so that the meaning of the terms in the claims may be ascertainable by reference to the description. (See 1.58(a).) There is no discussion or showing of the first and second state machines in the remainder of the specification, nor is there anything in the remainder of the specification that clearly corresponds to such terminology. Thus, the claims are indefinite.

(9/5/00 Office Action pp. 3).

Accordingly, applicants have amended claim 31 such that the claimed first and second state machines are clearly supported in the Disclosure on page 11, lines 9-22 and in FIG. 3. Thus, applicants respectfully submit that claims 31-37 and the Disclosure are in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments and arguments set forth herein, the applicable objections and rejections have been overcome. Accordingly,

applicants respectfully request the Examiner to find claims 31-37 in a condition of allowance.

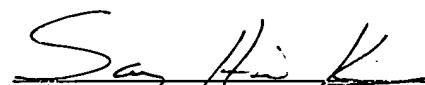
If the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Mike Kim at (408) 720-8300 x345.

If there are any additional charges, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

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